28 September 1993

SRV DOCUMENT PROVIDED IN APR 93, TITLED "LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS THAT DIED IN THE SOUTH AFTER THEIR CAPTURE," CORRELATES TO REFNO 1042-1-01. LINE ENTRY #35 CORRELATES BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME. (REF 10)

SRV DOCUMENT PROVIDED IN APR 93, TITLED "LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS THAT DIED IN THE SOUTH AFTER THEIR CAPTURE," CORRELATES TO REFNO 1042-1-02. LINE ENTRY #25 CORRELATES BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME. (REF 10)

15 October 1993

ON 1 SEP 93, THE VIETNAMESE TURNED OVER BRIEF CASE ASSESSMENTS FOR EACH OF THE 27 DIED IN CAPTIVITY CASES. THE ASSESSMENTS WERE IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. PRESENTATION OF THE D.I.C. LIST AS A GUIDE FOR SPECIAL REMAINS TEAM INVESTIGATION. ONE OF THESE CASES WAS REFNO 1042, WHICH THE VIETNAMESE RECOMMENDED BE CLASSIFIED AS "REMAINS DIFFICULT TO LOCATE." (REF 11)

5 May 1994

ON 14 DECEMBER 1993, THE SRV PROVIDED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO 84 CASES ASSIGNED TO THE JTF-FA SPECIAL REMAINS TEAM (SRT). ONE DOCUMENT TITLED, "REGARDING U.S. PERSONNEL WHO DIED WHILE HELD CAPTIVE IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM", PROVIDES INFORMATION CORRRELATING WITH REFNO 1042-0-01, AN UNRESOLVED CASE. CORRELATION IS BASED ON NAME, INCIDENT DATE AND LOCATION OF LOSS. (REF 14)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

REFNO: 1043-0-01 (ACCN Name: LAPHAM, ROBERT G	
Nationality AMERICAN Service AIR FORCE Grade 04 SSAN Serial No Birth date Home State MICHIGAN	Race CAUCASIAN Sex MALE Hair BROWN Eyes BROWN Height 70 in /1.78 mtrs Weight 193 lb / 87.4 kg Religion PROTESTANT Blood Chit # Blood type A + Complexion # Weapon # Weapon No # Duty pos PILOT PW Camp \$
	===== SITE INFORMATION ==================
INC	IDENT LOCATION (0)
UTM: 48Q Lat/Long: 163 Country: SOU Military Region: 3 Mission Province: QUA	SH SITE XD792357 553N / 1064048E TH VIETNAM NG TRI NG HOA Feb 1968 The populated area. SHOP STATE STA
Investigations: Jun 93 Surveys: Jun 93 Vessey Case: NO Case type: CRASH SIT Survivability: (4) Pro	oably in the aircraft at the time of the crash
Vehicle Type: A Crash Type: E	1G Serial: 135043

^{# =} Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.

^{\$ =} Item is not applicable to this case.

[@] or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

3 April 1975

MAJ ROBERT LAPHAM WAS FLYING THE LEAD A1G (#52-135043) IN A FLIGHT OF TWO ON FEB 68. THE ACFT WERE ALERTED TO JOIN AN AIRBORNE FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER (FAC) IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) XD 778 322 TO DESTROY THREE ENEMY TANKS. AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ONE PASS ON THE TANKS, MAJ LAPHAM WAS ON HIS SECOND PASS AND HAD ALREADY DROPPED HIS NAPALM WHEN HE CRASHED ABOUT 100 METERS BEYOND THE TARGET. HIS DIVE ANGLE HAD APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 10 TO 15 DEGREES, AND HE HAD RELEASED HIS NAPALM AT ABOUT 500 FEET. NEITHER THE SECOND A1G, WHO WAS THEN ON HIS ATTACK RUN, NOR THE FAC OBSERVED A PARACHUTE.

GROUND FIRE HAD BEEN SEEN BY THE SECOND A1G ABOUT THREE MINUTES BEFORE MAJ LAPHAM'S CRASH. A HELICOTER CREW ATTEMPTING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT, WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE THE CRASH SITE CLOSELY AND REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO RECOGNIZABLE PORTIONS OF THE AIRCRAFT REMAINING. (REF 1)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. MAJ LAPHAM IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

3 April 1975

REFERENCES: <1> MSG, DET 1 14TH ACW 081306Z FEB 68. <2>CDR JTF-FA 191522Z MAY 92. <3> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH 240354Z JUL 93.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

3 April 1975

COORDS CHANGED FROM XD 813 285 (VS/MIL RGN 1/PROV 01) TO XD 778 322 (LA/PROV 07/MIL RGN 3) BASED ON COORDS PROVIDED BY MSG, 14 ACW PKU RVN, DTG 081306Z FEB 68, SUBJ: AIRCRAFT LOSS.

11 August 1992

CHANGE CRASH SITE COORDINATES TO XD792357 VICE XD778322 BASED ON RE-EVALUATION OF ORIGINAL LOSS REPORT. (REF 2)

CASE: 1043 === JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

11 August 1993

ON 5 JUL 93, IE3 TRAVELED TO LONG THANH HAMLET, TAN LONG VILLAGE, HUONG HOA DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE (YD769354) TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1043. ONE WITNESS WAS INTERVIEWED BUT PROVIDED NO NEW INFORMATION FOR THIS CASE. A SUB-ELEMENT OF IE3 CONDUCTED TWO SITE SURVEYS, ONE AT THE U.S. RECORD LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT. THE OTHER AT THE WITNESS IDENTIFIED CRASH SITE. BOTH SURVEYS YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS. NO REMAINS, WRECKAGE, OR BURIAL SITES WERE LOCATED. (REF 3)